

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 119

By Miller J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Lee Stewart for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Lee Stewart, president of Southern Heritage Bank and the 2003 recipient of the Robert W. Varnell Leadership Award from the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Lee has logged more than thirty years of banking experience since he started his career in 1972 as a business development officer and credit officer with American National Bank in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, proving himself time and again as a man of ability and integrity, his career advancement in banking included employment with First National Bank of Columbus, Georgia, First American National Bank of Bristol, Tennessee, and First American Bank of Cleveland, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, having risen to the position of city president of First American Bank of Cleveland, he left in 1998 to become president of Southern Heritage, a new bank organized by local businessmen; and

WHEREAS, under his tenure, Southern Heritage has grown from an initial stock sale of \$10,000,000 and five employees to a current total asset tally of over \$103,000,000 with forty-two employees and three locations; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with Southern Heritage Bank, Lee still finds time to lend his remarkable talents to such notable causes as the United Way of Bradley County, Cleveland Sunrise Rotary Club, Greater Cleveland Soccer Association, Cleveland Family YMCA, Junior Achievement, and the Bradley Healthcare Foundation; and

WHEREAS, after serving as a member of the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors from 1992-94 and treasurer in 1995, Lee Stewart was elected Chairman of the Board in 1997; and

WHEREAS, his many contributions to the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce during his term in office have included recruiting 122 new members, organizing a long-range planning committee, supporting efforts to secure and fund a Business Incubator, supporting expansion and new construction for existing industries, and participating in the first ever Tennessee Co-op advertising campaign; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he is known in his community as a man who has deep commitments about his life, his family, and his work; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Lee Stewart for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Lee Stewart for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, congratulate him upon his reception of this year's Robert W. Varnell Leadership Award, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.